

History

The LCMS has a distinct theological foundation that informs its approach to education, including history and its related subject areas. These academic standards for history are developed within the framework of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. The standards provide teachers and students with a Lutheran Christian understanding of history, culture, and society that is both academically sound and doctrinally faithful, recognizing that all knowledge is ultimately rooted in God’s Word.

Students will study history through a biblical worldview, recognizing that all of creation, including history and society, is part of God’s created order. They will see history not as an accident of human development but as part of God’s unfolding plan for the redemption of the world. Students will understand that the ultimate purpose of history is to point to Christ and His work of salvation.

These standards are not divided by grade levels; the Lutheran Academic Anchor Standards will serve as the Portrait of a Graduate of any Lutheran School.

General Content Standard	National Anchor Standard	Lutheran Academic Anchor Standard	Scripture Connections
HIS1	NCSS Theme 2: Time, Continuity, and Change	Students will express that God is Lord of history and that He provides for humanity in every age, working for the good of His church.	<p>“O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.” (Daniel 9:19)</p> <p>“Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)</p> <p>“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)</p> <p>Daniel 2, 4</p>

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HIS2	NCSS Theme 3: People, Places, and Envi- ronments	Students will describe the geography of the world with an understanding that God’s providence extends to the physical features of creation.	“The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” (Psalm 24:1) “You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.” (Nehemiah 9:6) Genesis 1–2; Job 38
HIS3	NCSS Theme 4: Individual Develop- ment and Identity	Students will discuss history in light of the knowledge that humanity was made in the image of God and this image is now corrupted by the fall into sin.	“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’” (Genesis 1:26) Genesis 3:17–19; Romans 3:10–12
HIS4	NCSS Theme 1: Culture NCSS Theme 2: Time, Continu- ity, and Change	Students will identify the history of the church (God’s people) as definitive in history, along with the role that the church has played in culture and society.	“And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.” (Daniel 2:44) Nehemiah 9; Acts 7

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HIS5	NCSS Theme 10: Civic Ideals and Practices	Students will interpret the moral and ethical dimensions of historical events using Holy Scripture.	“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) 2 Timothy 3:16–17; The Ten Commandments; Galatians 5; 2 Peter 1
HIS6	NCSS Theme 10: Civic Ideals and Practices	Students will recognize that Christians have a responsibility to engage with civil society in a way that reflects God’s command to love our neighbors.	Matthew 22:36–40; 1 Peter 2
HIS7	NCSS Theme 6: Power, Authority, and Governance	Students will describe how Christians throughout history have navigated their role in civil governments and societies, recognizing that Christians are called to obey authority while also standing firm in the truth of God’s Word.	““But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!’ So they took his advice.” (Acts 5:39) Romans 13:1–7
HIS8	NCSS Theme 5: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions	Students will demonstrate understanding that God’s creation of the family is foundational for human life and civilization.	“God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.” (Psalm 68:6)

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HIS9	NCSS Theme 2: Time, Continu- ity, and Change	Students will describe how God’s providence in history extends from the “great men” through to “every man.”	cf. the biblical genealogies of Genesis 10; Ezra 2; 8; Nehemiah 6; Matthew 1; Luke 3
HIS10	NCSS Theme 1: Culture NCSS Theme 4: Individual Develop- ment and Identity	Students will apply to the study of history the concept that since they are human, nothing human is inapplicable to them.	“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like?” (Luke 7:31) “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12) Romans 5

NCSS=National Council for the Social Studies